

6H-R
7-27-2017

Leo J. Landkamer

Leo J. Landkamer, 88, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, July 24, 2017.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. Saturday July 29, 2017 at the St Mary's REC Center (across Broad Street from St. Mary's Church) in Grinnell, Iowa. A luncheon will follow at Fellowship Hall in the basement of the United Church of Christ at 902 Broad Street.

Leo was born on October 14, 1928, in Alexandria, Nebraska, to Joseph G. and Clara D. (Baruth) Landkamer. His family, with older brothers Fred and John and younger brother Ray, moved to Wisconsin in 1935.

At a young age Leo was tasked with hunting food for the family and was known as quite a shot especially when it came to squirrels. He was also assigned fishing duty with specific instructions as to the quantity and length of fish to bring home. When Leo was fourteen, he left home with a friend to travel throughout the United States by rail, jumping on slow moving trains. During his travels, he worked small jobs on farms and even worked on a dredge boat as the night cook where he mastered the art of frying eggs. He joined the Army in 1947 and spent three years in post-war Japan at Camp Zama. He then joined the Air Force and served at Eglin Airforce base in Florida.

After his honorable discharge, he enjoyed riding his Harley throughout the south and Midwest. Soon after, on the advice of a Boeing recruiter in Minneapolis, Leo moved to Seattle, Wash., where his brother Fred was living. Leo chose to attend Seattle University and graduated with degrees in Business Administration and Mathematics. There he met Joan Katherine Brand at a Catholic singles club event. They married on April 12, 1958, and had four children. Leo worked at The Boeing Company as a computer programmer, starting when the field was in its infancy.

When Boeing experienced a downturn in the late 1960s, he and Joan were accepted to the Peace Corps. The whole family lived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1970 to 1973. Leo worked on the Smallpox Eradication Program and Joan was a medical technologist with Princess Zauditu hospital. All four children attended Good Shepherd School. This was a wonderful, life-defining experience for the entire family.

The family returned to Seattle and Leo rejoined Boeing, working there until 1980 when he moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to work for Bendix Corporation on the New Jeddah International Airport. He then moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and worked in the Civil Service at Tripler Hospital. After that he moved to Japan to work for the U.S. military at Camp Zama, then to Landstuhl, Germany, to complete his career.

After retirement, Leo and Joan lived in San Diego, Calif., then Ocean Shores, Wash., then Palm Springs, Calif., and finally Grinnell, Iowa. He is survived by his wife, children Susan Landkamer-Rivera, Lise (Keith) Yale, John Landkamer and Mark (Margarita) Landkamer, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Leo loved to travel, loved "the human pageant" and often said "I have led a charmed life!"

